

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification is amended to update the priority data and to include a Sequence Listing. Claims 1-39 are canceled, and new claims 40-44 are added. Exemplary support for new claims 40-44 comes from the specification, at paragraphs [010], [035], [043], [044], [046], and [047] and in Example 2. Accordingly, no new matter is added by this Preliminary Amendment. Currently, claims 40-44 are pending in this application.

Applicants request, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(e), that the first-filed computer readable form filed in priority application Serial No. 09/109,916 be used as the computer readable form for the present application. It is understood that the Patent and Trademark Office will make the necessary change in application number and filing date for the computer readable form that will be used for the present application. A paper copy of the Sequence Listing is attached hereto and has been inserted into the specification.

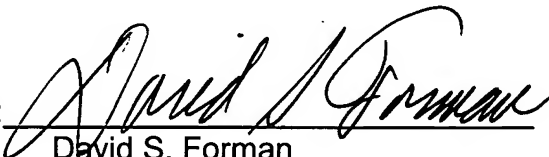
Early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested. If the Office believes anything further is necessary in order to place this application in better form for examination, Applicants request that the Office contact their undersigned representative.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 22, 2004

By: 
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